

## Message Text

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O 102237Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, US, GW

SUBJECT: EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE ON GERMANY - PRESS  
GUIDANCE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS  
GUIDANCE FOR USE AT AUGUST 11 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

2. QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE  
EVANS AND NOVAK STORY WHICH ASSERTS THAT EGON BAHR AND THE  
LEFT WING OF THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE CAPITAL-  
IZING ON THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT'S DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE  
CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO TURN WEST GERMANY SLOWLY BUT  
SURELY IN THE DIRECTION OF A DEAL WITH MOSCOW?

ANSWER: THE EVANS AND NOVAK STORY IS JUST THAT...A STORY.  
I WOULD NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON EITHER THE PURPOSE OR  
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CONTENT.

QUESTION: ISN'T THERE GOOD REASON TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF  
BAHR AND HIS COLLEAGUE, HERBERT WEHNER--THAT FORMER  
COMMUNIST WHO IS SO POWERFUL IN SCHMIDT'S PARTY?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, THE DEPARTMENT AS A MATTER OF LONG-

STANDING POLICY, DOES NOT TAKE PUBLIC POSITIONS ABOUT POLITICIANS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. I WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE THREE MAJOR PARTIES IN THE FRG HAVE A LONG RECORD OF LOYALTY, FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT BREZHNEV'S MAY VISIT TO BONN? ARE FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS BECOMING CLOSER? IS THE FRG PLACING LESS EMPHASIS ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AND CORRESPONDINGLY MORE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USSR?

ANSWER: --BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN WAS ENTIRELY IN KEEPING WITH THE PATTERN OF INCREASED HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN LEADERS, AND WE VIEW THIS AS A VERY NATURAL AND DESIRABLE PART OF THE EAST-WEST DIALOGUE.

--THE FRG IS A VALUED AND STAUNCH ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS A KEY MEMBER OF NATO. THE FRG CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IT ALSO SEEKS, AS DO WE, A FURTHER REDUCTION IN EAST-WEST TENSION, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MAJOR UNDERLYING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIET UNION REMAIN.

3. ABOVE IS FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION ONLY. EMBASSY SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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REFER ANY QUESTIONS IT RECEIVES TO DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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